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A BRIEF and MODEST

REPRESENTATION

OF THE

Present State & Condition

OF

IRELAND.

1 March: 168⅞.

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IT is manifest, and well known to all the World, that *Ireland* (which is subordinate to, and part of the Dominions of *England*) hath for many years been kept in Obedience to the Crown of *England*, by a constant and great Expence of *English* Blood and Treasure, the frequent Rebellions of the *Irish*, and their many Attempts wholly to extirpate the *English*, necessarily requiring a continual supply of Men and Money from *England*, to support the *British* Interest in that Island, which could not be effected without a standing *English* Army there.

And it is as plain, that the *Irish* taking the Advantage of the Reducing the *English* Army there to too small a number, and of the Civil Discords at that time in *England*, did on the 23 of *October* 1641, (without cause or provocation) enter into the most barbarous and bloody Rebellion that ever was known, in hopes to rescue themselves from subjection to the Crown of *England*.

And although when that Rebellion was suppress't, the *English* Government did not inflict National Punishments for those National Crimes, as in justice it might have done, but on the contrary, restored near five Millions of *English* Acres of Land, to the *Irish* Papists, which to this day are in their actual possession.

Nevertheless *England* did not so far forget its proper Interest of keeping *Ireland* in subjection, and of protecting and encourageing the *English* Plantations in that Kingdom, but that (amidst all the Mercies and Favours it dispenc'd to the *Irish* Papists) a considerable Protestant Army was still kept on foot, and all Power Civil and Military was put into the Hands of *English* Protestants; and herein *England* was so careful, as to incert a Clause, in all the Chief Governors Commissions, (even in the Earl of *Tyrconell*'s) not to dispose the considerable Offices of Trust, except to such as were *de Stirpe Anglicana*.

By these Means *Ireland* grew capable to make some returns to *England* for its great Concern and Charge, and the Publick Revenue which *Anno* 1641, did not much exceed 6000 l. improv'd to that Degree, that it was farm'd at 240000 *l.* in the year 1679. and since that time yielded 300000 *l. per Annum* in some years after, insomuch, that besides several Considerable *English* Pensions that were

were paid out of that Revenue, King *Charles* the Second, and the late King *James* had 30000 *l. per Annum* paid to the Privy-Purſe for ſeveral years together.

But of late, all thoſe ſolid and Fundamental Maxims have been ſubverted, the Conquering *Engliſh* have been put under the power of the Conquered *Iriſh*, both the Civil and Military Government of that Kingdom have been put into the Hands of *Iriſh* Papiſts, even of ſuch forfeiting Papiſts as cannot be reſtored, but by the expulſion of the *Engliſh*, and whoſe Intereſt as well as Inclination, drives them to endeavour the Ruine and Extirpation of all *Engliſh* Proteſtants; The *Engliſh* Army was Disbanded, and the Militia Diſarmed, and all the Power of that Kingdom was under the Adminiſtration of ſuch as were Irreconcilable Enemies to *England*, and the Proteſtant Religion, (which, it was much to be feared, was the Model deſign'd for another place) by thoſe means the flouriſhing Proteſtant Intereſt was expoſed to the Mercy of ſuch Enemies as had given but too many Inſtances of their Implacable Cruelty. But as if all this was not enough to deſtroy the Proteſtants, the *Iriſh* have of late been let looſe, vaſt quantities of Arms and Ammunition have been given them out of the Stores, they are every where Arrayed and Liſted, ſo that there are at leaſt 50000 of them at this time in Arms, and under Diſcipline, in Troops, Companies, and Regiments.

This Numerous Army could not be ſupported without Rapine, Free-quarter, and all the Exorbitancies incident to ſuch a Licencious Multitude.

The Conſequences whereof are, that Trade in that Kingdom is extinguiſh'd, and that Multitudes of the Miſerable *Engliſh* have already been forced to fly to *England*, others to flock together in Cities, Towns, and Caſtles, leaving their Cattle and Perſonal Eſtate expoſed to the Mercy of that Ravenous Army, which have already ſeized all the Cattle in the County of *Longford*, and above 12000 Head of Black Cattle in the County of *Corke*, beſides infinite Numbers in other parts of the Kingdom.

In this deplorable Condition are the *Engliſh* Proteſtants in moſt parts of *Ireland* at this day, every Minute expecting to be Maſſacred, by their Numerous and Inveterate Enemies, who are Gariſon'd in the very Towns and Cities the Proteſtants are fled to for Sanctuary, nor is their danger leſs of being ſtarv'd, though they ſhould eſcape the Sword, and they are without Queſtion begger'd and undone, though they ſhould, by the miraculous Providence of God, eſcape the dangers both of Sword and Famine.

Nevertheleſs, this Miſerable People, even as they are few in Number, in Compariſon of their Adverſaries, and deſtitute of Arms and Ammunition, and other Means of Defence, have not totally diſponded, but rather (like true *Engliſhmen* and Proteſtants) have raiſed their Courage as their Diſtreſſes increaſe, and will not believe but their Brethren in *England* will ſend them ſeaſonable Relief.

And they well hope, that even moderate Aſſiſtance from *England*, if ſent before it be too late, would put them in a Capacity to Live and Defend themſelves, and the Places they are poſſeſſed of, until greater Supplies can be ſent, which may enable them to reduce that Nation to a perfect and entire Obedience to the Crown of *England*, ſince the *Iriſh*, how inſolent ſoever they are at this Conjuncture, are nevertheleſs the ſame People they have ſo often Conquer'd.

And though the Province of *Ulſter* (where the *Britiſh* are more Numerous and Strong) is in a far better Condition than the reſt of that Kingdom, nevertheleſs, the *Iriſh* not Conſidering that, nor the Ruine, Deſolation and Famine, that will be the Natural Conſequence of their Raſhneſs, do daily threaten the Deſtruction of the Proteſtants, and many of them have proceeded to that degree of Folly and Inſolence, as to Menace, even Invaſion of *England* it ſelf.

And therefore, I could heartily wiſh, that that unfortunate Iſland were buried in the Sea, but ſince God and Nature have placed it above Water, in a ſituation that may render it ſo diſadvantageous to *England*, (lying as it doth in the Line of Trade) I muſt uſe my utmoſt Endeavours (as every good *Engliſhman* ought to do) that *Ireland* may not be a Thorn in our Side, nor prove ſo fatal to the Trade and ſafety of *England*, as it would certainly be, if the Harbours of that Kingdom were in an Enemies Hands.

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